

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING

November 19, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser
Rodney Ellis
Kevin Dorth
Kathi Mattas
Al Mattingly

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Debbie Young, Business Manager
Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gesser called for the approval of the October meeting's minutes. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Kathi Mattas made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented. Al Mattingly seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report, going over the October financial reports, including receipts and expenditures for the month. He asked if anyone had questions and hearing no comments or corrections, Kevin Dorth made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Waller presented the Director's Report and discussed the following:

- Winter Reading starts Dec. 1 and ends Jan. 31.
- The Public Life Foundation provided a grant for the Storybook Walk at Legion Park.
- Wesley Johnson, Library Associate/IT Technician, recently wrote and had an article published: "Alarmed and Alarming: Teaching Patrons How to Spot Celebrity Impostors."
- Nighthawk Security has provided Sean Gearhart, a new full-time security guard, to replace long-time guard Derek Vaughn.
- A new preschool coordinator, Jennifer Howard, has been hired in the Community Engagement Department.

There was no Old Business.

Mrs. Gesser called for New Business –

Mrs. Waller presented a Potential Remodel "Scope of Work/Fee Proposal" from Hafer Architects for review. Questions and discussion included that the projected cost was more than had been budgeted for. Suggestions included fewer enclosed meeting rooms along the east facade and consideration of incorporating a "Maker Space" (as previously suggested by Will Thomas in last month's

Public Comments). Rodney Ellis made a motion to move forward the proposal to get final numbers, which was seconded by Al Mattingly, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gesser called for Public Comment. There were about 31 people in attendance, with some having signed up to speak to the Board and a few others indicating that “maybe” they would. Mrs. Gesser reminded all that each person would have two minutes to speak after first either stating their name and address or showing their ID to director Erin Waller to prove they are Daviess County citizens.

Kevin Whear spoke of the Bible encouraging wisdom and giving warnings/reminders of what God calls evil, and encouraging all to trust God and His Word.

Madeline Howell stated that she loves the library, is glad it is not a church, and that people who don’t like the library “can start your own.” She quoted Scripture and a hymn, turning around multiple times to address the public attendees, emphasizing “Love your neighbor.”

Jonah Carpenter said that the limited access card for the “Young Adults” is insufficient to address the concerns about children’s access to inappropriate books for their ages. He gave the example of “Two Grooms on a Cake” that is in the Children’s section of the library, stated that Biblical marriage is between a man and a woman, and that such a book needs to be moved to the adult section.

James L. Kamuf indicated that he was “new” to library board meetings and expressed that people ought to be careful what they pull out of the Bible, not to attack others, but also agreed that there is a need to be careful about what is made available to young children. He also stated support for Al Mattingly’s endorsement of Will Thomas’ suggestion for a Maker Space in the library and to include CAD with that.

Kathy Estes expressed thankfulness for the library’s diverse materials and many programs, enjoyment of the recent guest author Charlie Cosgrove, and past free concerts by Arnie Weiner – stating that she is making a donation in his memory for children’s books. She stated that the public library is not a church and “hate speech” should not be allowed.

No one else indicated they wished to address the Board.

Commissioner Janie Marksberry expressed sorrow over the death of Arnie Weiner. She recently attended the Charlie Cosgrove Author Visit at the library and enjoyed the program.

Mrs. Waller asked Kathi Mattas if she’d like to explain her note-taking, which she did. Mrs. Mattas said that as the new board secretary, she would work towards learning and fulfilling her duties, including taking more thorough notes in order to prepare meeting minutes. Additionally, she plans to pursue KDLA library trustee certification through their online program in the near future.

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

